

The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS: Jared Touchin, Communications Director (928) 274-4275 Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer (928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2020

COVID-19 cases reach a total of 813, with 28 total deaths reported

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The total number of positive tests for COVID-19 has reached 813 for the Navajo Nation as of Monday — an increase of 115 positive cases over the last two days, according to the Navajo Department of Health and Navajo Area Indian Health Service, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center. The report also includes 3,028 total negative test results as of Thursday. There is now a total of 28 confirmed deaths related to COVID-19.

Due to the Easter holiday, there was no report provided on Sunday. The 813 confirmed positive cases include the following counties:

Navajo County, AZ: 269

Apache County, AZ: 102

Coconino County, AZ: 165

McKinley County, NM: 138

• San Juan County, NM: 108

• Cibola County, NM: 11

• San Juan County, UT: 11

Socorro County, NM: 6

Sandoval County, NM: 3

"It's very saddening to receive the new numbers each day. There are a lot of grieving families and there is a lot of work yet to be done. It's our time to rise to the challenge and keep pushing forward for our people and to honor those who have lost their lives to this virus. We will not give up. We saw good results with the 57-hour curfew this past weekend and we are considering a similar curfew once again to help decrease the spread. Our police officers did a great job!" said President Nez.

On Monday, the Navajo Area Indian Health Service also reported that they are beginning to receive rapid COVID-19 test kits that will begin producing quicker results at health care facilities on the Navajo Nation. Results were previously taking an average of three to four days to confirm.

"The upcoming weeks are going to be very challenging and we need everyone to support one another. This is an opportunity to show the world our strong we are as Diné people and to demonstrate our resilience once again. Let's pray, let's make good choices for ourselves and

others, and let's thank our health care workers and everyone else on the frontlines fighting for us each day," said Vice President Lizer.

The Navajo Police Department issued over 115 Navajo Nation Criminal Nuisance citations for curfew violations during the 57-hour weekend curfew. Throughout the seven police districts, over 120 officers contributed to the successful implementation of the department's curfew operation efforts, which consisted of community PSA announcements, curfew saturation enforcement, and public service announcement checkpoints.

"The enforcement was successful in that we saw a decline in the number of people traveling during the weekend. An operation of this capacity takes a lot of planning and coordination and our districts did a great job in enforcement efforts. In addition, the success is also credited to the public who complied and stayed home," Police Chief Francisco said. "I also want to remind the public that the stay at home order and daily curfew orders remain in effect and we ask the public to continue to adhere to those orders."

The Navajo Nation's daily curfew remains in effect from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. and Navajo Police continue to issue citations for curfew violators. On Tuesday, President Nez and Vice President Lizer will host another online Town Hall to share COVID-19 updates beginning at 10:00 a.m. (MDT) on the Nez-Lizer Facebook page.

For more information including reports, helpful prevention tips, and more resources, please visit the Navajo Department of Health's COVID-19 website at http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19. To contact the main Navajo Health Command Operations Center, please call (928) 871-7014.

###

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/ or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.